

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188708
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 188708

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 05134 TOJERUSALEM, INFO SECSTATE,
AMMAN, ALEXANDRIA, TEL AVIV AUG 10

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5134

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJ: ASSAD'S REACTION TO YOUR TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: SECTO 0812 DAMASCUS 5106

1. AFTER CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI'S MEETING WITH ASSAD
THIS AFTERNOON (SEPTEL), I PAUSED TO ADK THE PRESIDENT IF HE HAD HAD
TIME TO STUDY THE ACCOUNT OF YOUR TALKS IN TAIF. ASSAD
SAID HE HAD READ THE MESSAGE WITH GREAT INTEREST LAST
NIGHT AND HAD FOUND IT "CLEAR, DETAILED AND ENCOURAGINGMZ

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2. THE PRESIDENT THEN ERPEATER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS
BEGIN'S AND DAYAN'S RIGID POSITIONS ABOUT THE PLO, BORDERS AND
ARABSOVEREIGNTY OVER WEST BANK/GAZA. (ASSAD HAD COMPLAINED
TO DERWINSKI ABOUT DAYAN'S THREE "NOES." I HAD INTER-
JECTED THAT THERE WAS PERHAPS A LESSON IN PUBLIC
RELATIONS TO BE DRAWN BY THE ARABS IN THE PARALLEL BETWEEN

YESTERDAY'S ISRAELI "NOES" AND THE "THREE ARAB NOES" OF THE 1967 KHARTOUM CONFERENCE. ASSAD AT FIRST DEFENDED NASSER AS A "MAN OF PERCE" BUT THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ARAB SUMMIT DECISIONS AT DHARTOUM AND PROVEN EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO THE ARABES VIS-A-VIS WORLD OPINION FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEREAFTER.)

3. SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT YOU MAY HAVE EONVEYED TO BEGIN SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRMNESS OF BEGIN'S STATEMENTS MIGHT REFLECT ELEMENT OF SHOCK AT THE THRUST OF RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PLO. ASID IT APPEARED TO ME ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT AT THIS POINT IN TIME HE AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS NOT RESPOND TO ISRAELI STATEMENTS WITH SIMILAR RIGIDITY. ASSAD AGREED EMPHATICALLY.
MURPHY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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